

WORKFORCE OBSERVATIONS FOR SOUTH CENTRAL WISCONSIN COUNTIES

February 2004



State of Wisconsin
Department of Workforce Development
Office of Economic Advisors

January slowdown hides potentially encouraging signs

In January, **Columbia County** saw its unemployment rate rise by a very typical margin. This left the rate quite close to its typical January level. (See graph below.) Through October of 2003, the rate had been well above typical levels, so some encouragement could be found in rates only slightly above typical levels. Despite the expected seasonal loss, this January's construction employment estimates remain above last January's estimates. Much the same can be said of the retail & wholesale trade sector.

In the first half of 2003, **Dane County** was 0.8 percent or more above its typical unemployment rate. November through January rates have been roughly 0.6 percent above typical levels, which suggests slight improvement.

(See page 2 graph.) Professional & business services figures posted a lower level of employment and a larger drop in employment than any other month in the last two years. Last January saw the only other one-month change in busi-

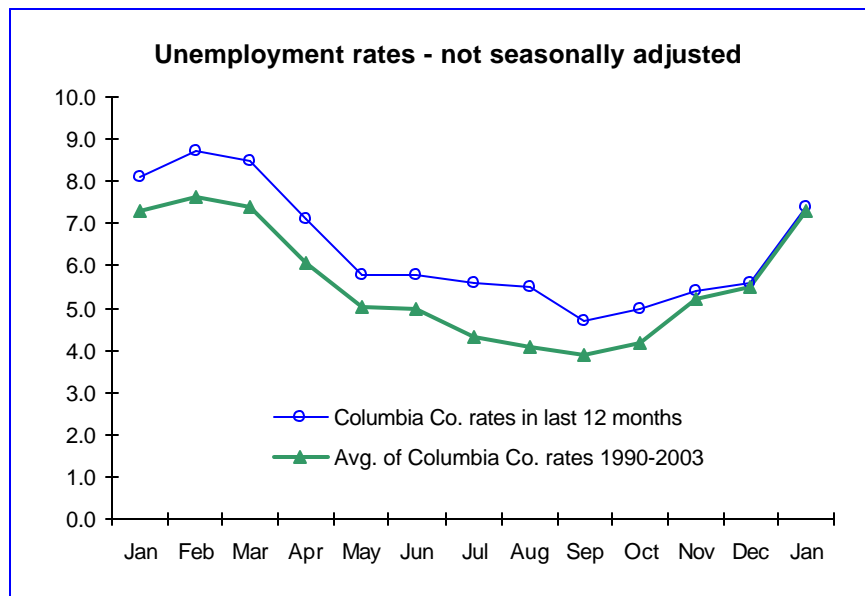
ness & professional services that was nearly so sharp. The reduction in construction employment is largely seasonal and in keeping with last year's trends.

While it is still closer to typical levels than it had been for the first eight months of 2003, **Dodge County's** unemployment rate remains well above typical levels, and

more so than it had been in October or November. The manufacturing employment estimate is as low as it has been at any point since January 2002. Despite the December-to-January decline, information, professional, business & other services remains well above levels from twelve months ago.

Jefferson County remains closer to typical unemployment rates

than it was for the first seven months of last year, but not quite as close as it was from August to September of last year. The leisure & hospitality sector posted fewer jobs in January 2004 than in December of 2003, but comparing



Labor force estimates - not seasonally adjusted

	Wisconsin			South Central			Columbia			Dane		
	Jan 2004	1-month change	1-year change	Jan 2004	1-month change	1-year change	Jan 2004	1-month change	1-year change	Jan 2004	1-month change	1-year change
Civilian Labor Force**	3,086,000	20,900	60,200	452,900	1,020	14,000	28,800	630	1,020	289,400	-900	10,700
Employed	2,902,300	-12,960	78,700	433,900	-3,060	15,300	26,700	70	1,120	280,700	-2,700	11,100
Unemployed	183,700	33,800	-18,540	19,000	4,100	-1,300	2,100	560	-100	8,600	1,800	-410
Unemployment rate (%)	6.0	1.1	-0.7	4.2	0.9	-0.4	7.4	1.8	-0.7	3.0	0.6	-0.2
	Dodge			Jefferson			Marquette			Sauk		
	Jan 2004	1-month change	1-year change	Jan 2004	1-month change	1-year change	Jan 2004	1-month change	1-year change	Jan 2004	1-month change	1-year change
Civilian Labor Force**	47,800	370	820	42,700	110	210	7,200	150	180	37,000	660	1,080
Employed	44,700	-270	1,000	40,300	-400	520	6,400	20	270	35,000	230	1,290
Unemployed	3,100	640	-180	2,300	510	-310	820	130	-90	1,990	440	-210
Unemployment rate (%)	6.4	1.3	-0.5	5.5	1.2	-0.7	11.4	1.6	-1.5	5.4	1.1	-0.7

** Includes labor force participants residing in area. Estimates are **NOT** seasonally adjusted. Current month estimates are preliminary and subject to revision. Numbers 2,000 and greater are rounded to nearest 100. Numbers under 2,000 are rounded to nearest 10. Sub-units may not add to totals due to rounding. Calculations are based on unrounded numbers. Results are rounded. For more information call (608) 242-4885 or email dan.barroilhet@dwd.state.wi.us.

January 2004 to January 2003, no industry added a greater number of jobs than leisure & hospitality. Despite the expected seasonal slowing, the construction sector remains well above levels seen twelve months ago; indeed its January-to-January proportional job growth (6.5%) is faster than any other industry's.

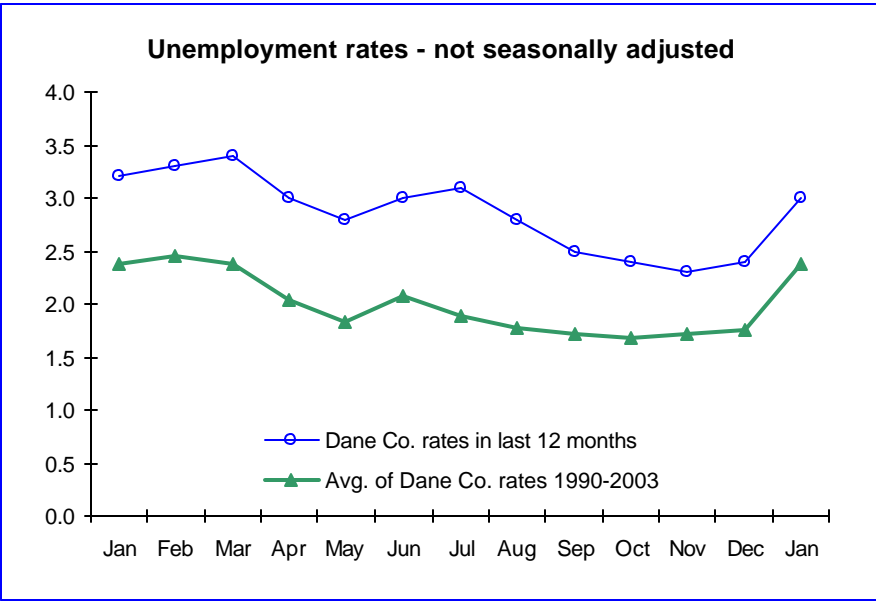
Rising more slowly than it usually does in January, **Marquette County's** unemployment rate was closer to its typical level than it has been at any time in the last year. Still, it remains 1.1 percent above its typical level. The construction sector saw a bit more boost in the summer of 2003 than the summer of 2002, but the autumn/winter decline also seems sharper.

After tepid summer hiring, the leisure & hospitality sector shed fewer jobs this fall and winter than last. January marked the first time in twelve months that leisure & hospitality

posted more jobs than it had posted twelve months earlier.

Although **Sauk County's** unemployment rate rose in January, it rose more slowly than usual, leaving it further below its typical level than it has been at any time in the last 12

months. The leisure & hospitality employment estimate was higher in January than in December, and was more consistent with autumn trends suggesting that the sector would remain slightly above year-ago levels. Construction employment seems to be following last year's patterns fairly closely, remaining roughly 80 to 120 jobs over the 12-months-ago figure for every month since June.

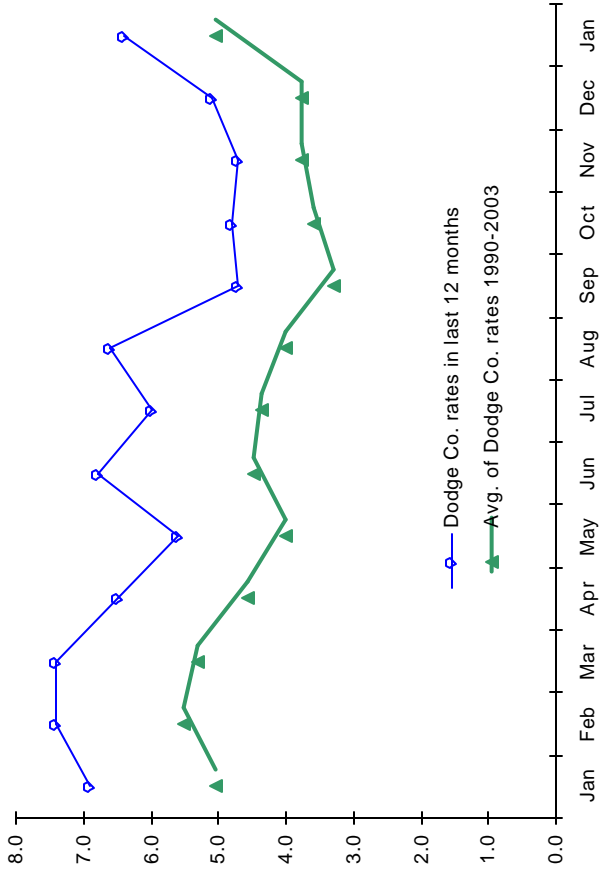


See a new article on Wisconsin population trends, at [http://www.dwd.state.wi.us/lmi/Population projections at http://www.dwd.state.wi.us/lmi/xls/popproj2000-2030.xls](http://www.dwd.state.wi.us/lmi/Population%20projections%20at%20http://www.dwd.state.wi.us/lmi/xls/popproj2000-2030.xls)

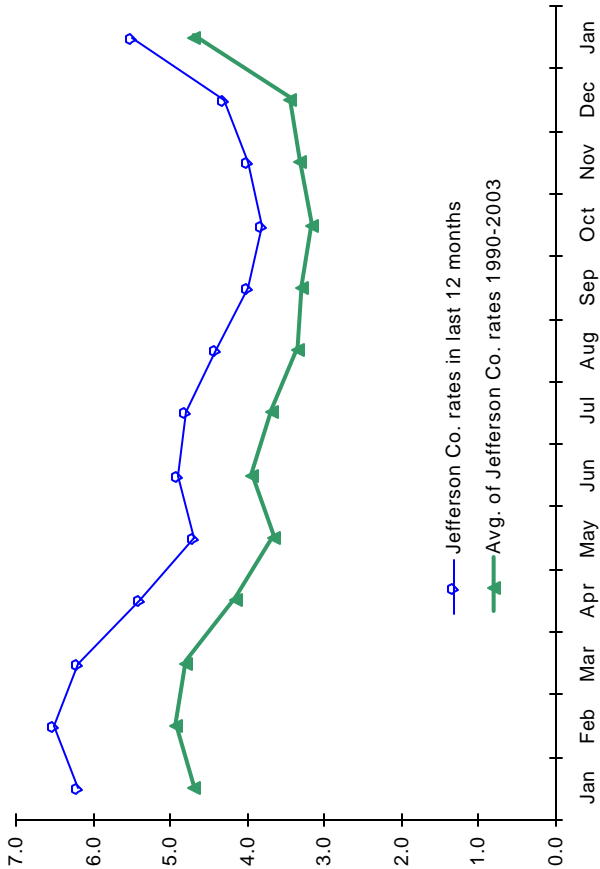
Employment by industry estimates - not seasonally adjusted												
	Wisconsin			South Central			Columbia			Dane		
	Jan 2004	1-month change	1-year change	Jan 2004	1-month change	1-year change	Jan 2004	1-month change	1-year change	Jan 2004	1-month change	1-year change
Total jobs, all indstries*	2,741,100	-52,800	30,600	420,300	-11,400	5,700	20,100	-340	270	294,000	-8,800	5,500
Const., min'g & nat. resources	116,100	-9,400	4,300	19,200	-2,000	360	1,010	-100	60	13,300	-1,400	100
Manufacturing	497,500	-3,900	-11,800	57,800	-1,260	-1,880	4,600	-70	-60	26,500	-900	-400
Trade (wholesale & retail)	439,700	-6,900	14,200	62,800	-4,300	1,220	3,400	-120	190	42,400	-3,500	700
Transport, Wrhsing, Utilities	104,400	-3,800	1,600	10,900	-120	-70	710	-10	30	7,300	0	1,300
Financial activities	159,800	-300	5,500	30,200	120	1,350	670	50	80	26,000	0	1,100
Education & health services	371,700	-2,200	11,900	44,400	-540	1,310	2,300	-20	-40	29,600	-500	1,100
Leisure & hospitality	233,500	-3,500	7,900	37,400	-130	1,140	2,100	20	40	23,500	-400	600
Info, prof, bus. & other srvcs	417,900	-5,400	800	64,100	-2,100	-120	1,580	20	10	51,000	-1,800	-400
Government	400,500	-17,400	-3,800	93,600	-990	2,400	3,700	-100	-40	74,400	-300	2,700
	Dodge			Jefferson			Marquette			Sauk		
	Jan 2004	1-month change	1-year change	Jan 2004	1-month change	1-year change	Jan 2004	1-month change	1-year change	Jan 2004	1-month change	1-year change
Total jobs, all indstries*	32,900	-940	-150	34,700	-620	-410	3,700	-140	110	34,900	-550	380
Const., min'g & nat. resources	1,860	-200	0	1,160	-120	70	150	-50	30	1,760	-130	110
Manufacturing	9,800	-230	-600	9,300	-40	-740	1,210	0	-10	6,300	-20	-70
Trade (wholesale & retail)	4,000	-80	50	5,900	-110	40	440	-20	0	6,700	-500	240
Transport, Wrhsing, Utilities	960	-40	0	1,200	-30	-40	50	0	0	650	-30	-60
Financial activities	840	-10	30	950	-10	30	150	0	10	1,580	80	110
Education & health services	4,300	90	130	4,600	-90	80	290	-20	10	3,300	-10	40
Leisure & hospitality	2,200	-110	70	3,000	-100	170	350	-30	20	6,300	490	240
Info, prof, bus. & other srvcs	3,500	-190	250	4,600	-10	130	220	0	10	3,200	-150	-120
Government	5,400	-190	-80	4,000	-120	-150	850	-20	40	5,200	-280	-110

*Includes jobs with employers in area. Estimates are NOT seasonally adjusted. Current month estimates are preliminary and subject to revision. Numbers 2,000 and greater are rounded to nearest 100. Numbers under 2,000 are rounded to nearest 10. Sub-units may not add to totals due to rounding. Calculations are based on unrounded numbers. Results are rounded. For more information call (608) 242-4885 or email dan.barroilhet@dwd.state.wi.us.

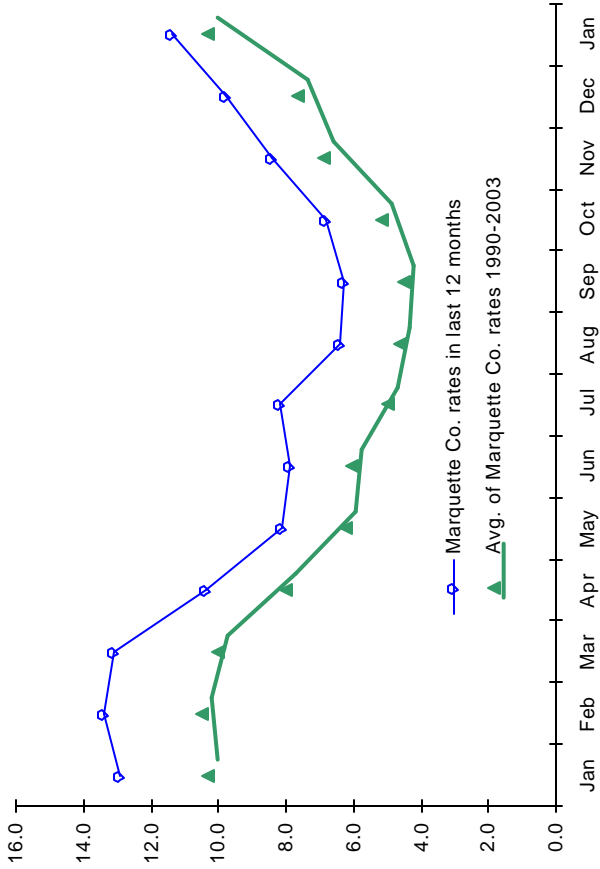
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